all the other prisoners that came by the same boat with us from Calcutta got their release from jail, and went outside but no orders for us; one year passed, two years passed, how many fresh batches of new-comers arrived and duly went out at the end of their specified terms but our fate remained the same. Committee after committee sat and we watched the issues with bated breath and eager expectations, all to no purpose. Tired at last, as we came almost to the end of our tether, waiting and waiting, and waiting, there came the news one fine morning, that the jail authorities had received orders relating to our transfer to the settlements. We gathered together all our belongings, a few l>ooks, some clothes, the iron cup and plate, the only ones that we had the right to call ourselves the proud proprietors of at the time, and made for the gates. We waited there till the official business arrangements regarding our transfer to the settlements, had to be gone through; as soon as the necessary

arrangements were
complete, the gates opened,
and we came
out, all together, shouting and
laughing, and
gesticulating, to our hearts* content,
only to fall